



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1

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Bill

September 16, 2002

Fred Banach, Assistant Director
Planning and Standards Division
Bureau of Water Management
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Mr. Banach:

During our meeting on July 31, 2002 about Connecticut's November 2001 revisions to the State Surface Water Quality Standards, we discussed some questions EPA had about standards # 14 and #15 related to dredging. Specifically, we asked how the Water Quality Standards are applied when the state reviews a new project for the disposal of dredged or fill material in waters of the state. We also asked about the revised language regarding capping. Based on that discussion, our understanding of standards #14 and #15 is as follows. Please provide written confirmation if you agree with the summary below.

Water Quality Standards #14 (previously standard #13) and #15 (previously standard #26) were revised to clarify how dredging and dredged material disposal management practices are evaluated by the Commissioner for consistency with Connecticut's Water Quality Standards in waters outside the boundaries of any dredged material disposal areas or areas designated by the Commissioner for disposal or placement of fill materials. This language does not alter the DEP's process for evaluating new disposal/fill sites. DEP performs a full evaluation on whether disposal or filling can occur in these areas on a case-by-case basis and considers all of its Water Quality Standards in making these decisions. Furthermore, this language does not establish an across-the-board determination that capping meets Connecticut's Water Quality Standards in all cases. Rather, DEP evaluates capping proposals on a case-by-case basis to ensure that the Water Quality Standards will be met.

We look forward to receiving your response in the near future. Please feel free to contact me or Bill Beckwith (617) 918-1544 with any questions. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Lynne A. Hamjian, Manager
Connecticut State Program Unit

cc: Lee Dunbar, CT DEP

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